

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00568 131605Z  
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 /024 W

-----131629Z 031307 /54

O 131534Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3035

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0568

USIA FOR IEU, ICS/E

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, SOPN, UR

SUBJECT: PROTEST ON SAGIRASHVILI CASE

REFERENCE: (A) USIA 0862, (B) MOSCOW 0446

1. P&C COUNSELOR BENSON CALLED AT CHAMBER JANUARY 13 TO REGISTER STRONG DISPLEASURE OVER SAGIRASHVILI INCIDENT. IN ABSENCE OF OGANESYAN (WHO IS SICK WITH FLU), CHAMBER WAS REPRESENTED BY OGANESYAN'S DEPUTY, G. N. SOLNTSEV; GOTSOULIAK AND PETROVA WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. BENSON RELATED DIFFICULTIES WHICH SAGIRASHVILI HAD ENCOUNTERED, INCLUDING ATTACKS ON HIS FATHER, CHARACTERIZING ACTIONS BY ALLEGEDLY IRATE SOVIET CITIZENS AS "ORGANIZED AND PRIMITIVE BEHAVIOR." HE EMPHASIZED THAT SITUATION COULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE BEEN PREVENTED OR CONTROLLED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES BUT WAST; INSTEAD, IT APPEARED TO BE SPECIFIC CAMPAIGN TO "TORMENT" SAGIRASHVILI, SOMETHING MORE ATUNE TO A STATE OF AFFAIRS ASSOCIATED WITH THE 1905'S AND NOT THE 1970'S. SENSIBLE PEOPLE SAID BENSON, MUST BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS NEVER SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED AND THAT CALMER AND MORE REASONABLE APPROACH DEFINITELY NEEDED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00568 131605Z

3. PARTICULAR DISAPPOINTMENT WAS EXPRESSED THAT CHAMBER, WHICH SHOULD ACT AS EXHIBIT'S BUFFER WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS AND SHOULD SEEK TO CONTROL AND MINIMIZE UNPLEASANT SITUATIONS, FAILED TO PLAY ANY POSITIVE ROLE IN THIS INCIDENT.

4. SOLNTSEV RESPONDED WITH EXPRESSION OF REGRET, BUT SAID HE

WAS HEARING OF MATTER FOR FIRST TIME. NO NEGATIVE THING LIKE THIS, HE SAID, CAN BE IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST. SOLNTSEV OFFERES SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT RATIONALIZATIONS THAT PROBLEMS RESULTED EITHER FROM INTENSE GEORGIAN PATRIOTISM AND EMOTIONALISM OR FROM "DISSIDENTS TRYING TO SPOIL ATMOSPHERE." HE DID MAKE RATHER POINTED OBSERVATION, HOWEVER, THAT "WE ARE A PATRIOTIC NATION" AND THAT SOVIETS STILL FEEL DEEPLY ABOUT VARYING ALLEGIANCES DURING WORLD WAR TWO ("THERE ARE STILL WAR CRIMES TRIALS GOING ON 35 YEARS AFTER THE WAR"). PERHAPS HE VENTURED, "IT WAS NOT WISE TO SEND SUCH A GUIDE. IT IS JUST MUCH FODDER FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO DREDGE UP OLD ANTAGONISMS.

5. BENSON REITERATED THAT ISSUE WAS TREATMENT ACCORDED SAGIRASHVILI, AND NOT LATTER'S FATHER'S LIFE STORY: "THIS IS NOT A DISCUSSION OF BLOOD, FATHERS, AND GUILT." SOLNETSOV ENDED EXCHANGE WITH FURTHER EXPRESSION OF REGRET AND IN UNUSUAL MOVE (FOR CHAMBER) SAID: "WE ARE BOTH UPSET ABOUT THIS. WE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT FROM OUR END WHAT HAPPENED AND WE SHOULD MEET AGAIN ON THIS."

TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, HARASSMENT, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), CULTURAL EXHIBITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MOSCOW00568  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770013-0643  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770155/aaaabwcu.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8d1305da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 MOSCOW 446  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3607126  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROTEST ON SAGIRASHVILI CASE  
**TAGS:** OEXC, SOPN, UR, US, (SAGIRASHVILI, SHOTA)  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8d1305da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009